

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE __.

In 2009, the City declared a fiscal emergency to justify a Utility Users Tax (UUT). The purpose of this temporary, 10-year tax was to weather the recession.

Now, with a robust recovery and an increased sales tax (the highest in California), the UUT should no longer be necessary. To argue otherwise is an admission that the City is budgetarily inept, and we're consequently stuck in a perpetual state of emergency.

Instead of threatening to cut emergency services, the City ought to be reining in the highest compensation levels of its emergency service personnel. Visit www.transparentcalifornia.com and count the number of Hayward firefighters receiving annual compensation amounts of over \$300,000. You'll be shocked.

Regarding the UUT, most have no idea on what they're being taxed or the specific amount they pay each year... Do you?

Some utilities are taxed; some aren't. Electricity is taxed; water isn't. Gas is taxed; sewer isn't. Xfinity TV is taxed; Dish TV isn't. Landline phone service is taxed; VoIP isn't. Cell phone service billed to a Hayward address is taxed; service invoiced elsewhere (such as a prepaid/no-contact account or a friends and family/employer plan) isn't.

There's no logical correlation between this confusingly applied tax and an individual's burden on city services. Individual neighbors requiring the same level of service can be taxed significantly different amounts based on the manner of their consumption.

An individual having Dish TV, a VoIP home phone, a no-contract mobile phone, and a solar array that can generate all needed power will pay nothing toward city services via this tax. While someone who has Xfinity TV, a traditional landline phone, a cell phone billed to their Hayward address, and all PG&E provided power may be paying hundreds annually.

This is unjust, and it shouldn't continue.

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